

Mike Callas

PRESS Sports

"DON DRYSDALE'S CHAT WITH BUZZIE BAVASI"

Baseball players are an unfortunate lot when it comes to the agreement and signing of their contracts for the coming season. They, like actors who command better-than-average salaries, have no agent to bargain for them. The play-for-pay athlete must determine his value to the club without the assistance of learned "counsel."



Two days ago Red Patterson, the Dodger press secretary, informed the writers that: "While the club will adhere to its policy of not announcing contract terms, Vice-President and General Manager E. J. (Buzzie) Bavasi admitted, in revealing the fact that Don Drysdale was the fourteenth Dodger signed, that big Don had received a contract in excess of the \$30,000 paid to Don Newcombe after his 27-victory year with the Dodgers in 1956."

Patterson's memo went on and recapped the doings of the big righthander. How many games he won, and lost; his strike-out total; shutouts, and numerous other statistics concerning the successful Van Nuys youngster. What Red didn't say was how the pitcher had come to terms with the Dodger executive. Let's try and guess how that contract negotiation conversation went:

EVERYTHING BUT CONTRACT

"How's the family Don?"
 "Fine Buz."
 "Make any improvements on your house in the Valley?"
 "Well—Ginger reid the living room. And I puttered around in the yard."
 "No major sickness problem with your child during the winter months?"
 "Buzzie, you know all that. I sell tickets and make personal appearances for the club, remember?"
 "Sure, sure, kid."
 "Let's talk about salary for 1961."
 "How's your arm Don?"
 "It's O.K. Buz."
 "Did you get your contract in the mail?"
 "Yes."
 "Did you bring it in, signed?"
 "Buz . . . it's the same as last year."
 "Well"
 "It's not enough boss. I think I had a pretty good year considering"

MAKES STEALING SECOND POSSIBLE

Then the hassle really begins. The player shoots high, especially if he's been around for a few seasons. He knows the average ballplayer doesn't last past seven years in the majors. His boss tells him he is too high and the relations become strained.

"You have to take in consideration other things Don. Like Allan Roth's figures say . . . you got shelled in relief but were not involved with the decision either way. You also permitted a couple of guys to go to second because you might have forgotten that you had a man on first and took a full wind-up. This is all a part of your job Don."

"O.K. Buzzie. How much do you think I'm worth?"
 "I'll send you a new contract Don, I've got to think about it a little more."

"You've got all the facts on me in front of you. What else do you need?"

"Don, I've got to study them a while. The righthander shakes hands with the executive and departs with the feeling that Buzzie might shaft him. That his boss knows more about money than he does. And that if he doesn't sign the next contract he may not be asked to join the team for spring training."

The \$32,500 that Don signed for may have been the end of the foregone, imaginative chat. The agreement may have been reached with the first contract offer. One thing is for sure it took a lot of thinking and ninety-nine percent of that was in favor of the club. Even successful owners, like O'Malley of the Dodgers, have been known to quibble over figures a lot less than Drysdale's increase.

DODGERS BEST IN A.I.L.

Dodger prospects ran off with a major share of the laurels in the final statistics of the Arizona Instructional League this winter. The Los Angeles club led in doubles, homers, total bases, runs batted in, batting average and sacrifice hits. Individually, Dick Smith led the home run hitters with 11, Dick Nen was tops in total bases (106) and runs batted in (46) and Bob

Cox was hit by the most pitches (5). Nen led the first basemen as a fielder with a .988 average and Joe Curtin led the shortstops at .931. Nen was second in the league batting averages at .331 and Smith was fifth at .319. Ray Loya was the only pitcher in the league with two shutouts. Joe Moeller started the most games (11).

Use classified. Call DA 5-1515

SOUTH STREAK ENDS

Last Friday night Mira Costa's wrestling team broke South High's string of ten consecutive wins by flooring the south men 31-16.

Unexpected losses in the 106, 123, and 136 pound classes caused the downfall of Coach Bob Bonhiem's grapplers. Ralph Freas at 148 lbs. and Dave Birmingham at heavy-weight remained as the only two unbeaten wrestlers on the South squad. The contest, held in the Spartans gym was witnessed by 500 fans.

Mira Costa now stands at 5-0 in Bay League competition. South has a 4-1 record.

This was also the first J.V. loss for they had previously beaten 10 opponents.

CREATED SENSATION

Dr. William J. Thaler, 34, a highly creative physicist, created a sensation in the news papers in Washington, D.C., by accepting a \$12,000-a-year teaching position at Georgetown University in preference to a \$40,000-a-year job in private industry. Dr. Thaler said he chose teaching because it will give him time to experiment. He has already been given credit for the development of some of the nation's greatest breakthroughs in the atomic field. As the Washington, D.C. Labor expressed it, "We're glad to salute Dr. Thaler for decision. There are undoubtedly many more educators in our land who place ideals above dollars."

LET'S GO BOWLING
 With Darlene Cope

Juniors as well as adult bowlers were very busy last week at Gable House in hitting 200 games and over and also picking up some hard splits.

HIGH PINNERS

Lorry Page fought her way to a sizzling 225 score while Helen Siekkinen (Redondo Eagles) shot a 210; Lois Matsui, 206; Madelyne Johnson (Parchers), 203; and Lorraine Sanchez (Gable Owls), 202.

T. Sandstrom bowling in open play managed to rack up a high game of 253.

The junior bowlers also hold some top honors. Ken Peterson came in first with a 218. Following close behind were Mike Krone, 211; B. W. Grammer, 203; Jim Braden (Mira Costa), 202; and Dennis O'Dowd (Father & Son League), 200.

Some tricky splits were spared by S. Deturk (Girl Scouts), 7-9; Pete Miller (Sunsetters), 4-6; "Jr." Johnston, 8-10; K. C. Thompson (Norair), 8-10; Karen Peterson (Del Amo Mixed 5), 8-10; John Matsui, 7-8 and Joan Cole (Tues. Toots No. 1), 8-10.

Little Robin Fisher, junior bowler, shot a consistent 90 triplicate score.

PORTRAIT OF A BOWLER

To fill this title, I salute Dot Downer. Dot, her husband Jiggs, and two sons Mike, 8, and Bill, 9½, of 22117 Palos Verdes Blvd., Torrance, are another Gable House bowling family.

Dot started bowling about six months ago when her husband came home one evening with a bowling ball, bag, and shoes for her and said, "Dear, we are going to take up bowling."

Dot sets aside one day each week for league bowling. She bowls in the Wednesday morning Top Notchers scratch league and the Scotch Doubles league the same afternoon.

Dot carries the high average in the Top Notchers League, a 141. Her highest scratch game and series are a 198 and 518.

The unusual factor about Dot is that she is right handed but spots the ball on the alley the same as would a left hander. Her husband is left handed but bowls right. Jiggs bowls on the Torrance Moose team in the Early Show league on Monday nights. The family bowls on week-ends and Dot said she wants to put the boys in a Bantam league during the summer.

One last note about Dot is that the girls appreciate her humor. She can be bowling in the sixth frame and tell her opponents or team mates, "Now, if I can just strike the rest of the way out, I'll hit my first 200 game." In my opinion, it is nice to have someone like this in a league to give you a good laugh and to relieve your tensions. Thanks, Dot.

REMINDERS

Jerry Homel has another feature in mind today at 1 o'clock for the spare pick-up class. Don't miss it.

Ruth Caudle plans to have her bowling class again this Sunday morning at 10 o'clock for everyone 50 and over. Starting next Wednesday February 8, from 1-3 o'clock, Ruth will also conduct a free bowling class for anyone suffering from arthritis. Just have your doctor's permission and Ruth will see to it that you will enjoy the sport of bowling.

I just learned that Ruth's spouse, Bill, shot a 203-192-246 for a 6th scratch series last Thursday night.

Monday and Tuesday are Gable's special days in the Rik-Sha Room. You can get two delicious dinners for the price of one. Take it from me, this is worth looking into so don't miss it next week.

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Coast Guard Offers Small Boat Classes

Classes in small boat piloting and seamanship will be offered to the public at no charge by the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary in 36 schools and boat clubs in Southern California during the spring of 1964.

Most of the classes start during the first week of February. They are designed for new and prospective boat owners who are interested in learning how to enjoy boating as a safe form of family recreation.

Each course consists of a three hour class period one evening a week for a period of twelve weeks. Subjects covered include piloting, seamanship, rules of right-of-way, anchoring, boat safety equipment, charts, lights, numbering and other nautical subjects.

A certificate is issued by the U. S. Coast Guard upon satisfactory completion of the course.

Interested boatmen may

Final Signup Slated Feb. 15

Today is none to soon to mark calendars for the final signups for the 1961 Pony Colt League on Feb. 15 at 7:30-9 p.m. at the Dapplegray School, according to Glen Nassimbene, president of the Rolling Hills double league.

The Pony League is open to boys who reside within the boundaries of the Palos Verdes School District. They must have been born on or between Aug. 1, 1946 and July 31, 1948, ages 13 and 14.

The Colt League is open to boys residing within the boundaries of the P.V. school district and the franchised boundaries of the Pacific Riviera Pony League. They must have been born on or between Aug. 1, 1944 and July 31, 1946, ages 15 and 16.

Those signing up must bring a birth certificate and be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

The registration fee is \$10 per boy, plus \$10 per family. The money is being sought to defray anticipated expenses, including night lighted playing facilities; player protection and liability insurance (\$650); and development and improvement of existing facilities.

Lack of a registration fee and/or family donation will not prohibit a boy from participating in the 1961 season, according to Mr. Nassimbene. Arrangements may be made for the boy to assist in field work to earn the right to play.

"This volunteer youth baseball program," Mr. Nassimbene points out, "is for the youth of our community, and we the board of directors are striving to provide the best and most wholesome program for every boy 13 through 16 years of age."

Others on the board include: E. M. Pierce, vice president; T. H. Roevens, treasurer; Wes Waldorf and Jim Meagher, Colt vice presidents; Harold Daigh and Art Worth, Pony vice presidents; Ed Kline, sponsors chairman; Dr. John Keys, special events Manager; Joy D. Mack, secretary; and Bob Shellaby, publicity chairman.

CLUB SEEKS UNSIGNED PLAYERS AT SESSION

The starting time of 9:30 a.m. daily has been set for the tryout camp which the Los Angeles Angels will hold at Sawtelle beginning next Monday and continuing through Wednesday, General Manager Fred Haney announced yesterday.

Skipper Bill Rigney and his coaches, Bob Elliott, Marv Grissom and Red Kress will conduct the tryouts which are open to all players who are eligible for signing.

Haney said, "We are holding this camp for free agents, since only signed players will be permitted in our spring training camp at Palm Springs."

The Angels request that only those free agents eligible to be signed report to the

camp. All prospects should bring their own uniforms, spikes and other equipment.

In addition to Rigney and his aides, others expected to be on hand for the camp are Haney and Farm and Scouting Director Roland Hemond.

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